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BALTIMORE.

No. 19. Price : 5 cents. MAY 15th 1905.

The Only Copy under Congo Free State

FEDERATION FOR THE DEFENCE OF BELGIAN INTERESTS ABROAD

Africa - Central
Congo

The truth on the Congo Free State

HEAD OFFICE :
Hôtel Ravenstein, rue Ravenstein, 3
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A DECLARATION.

« There is a strange silence in the Congophile camp, » says the organ of the Congo Reform Association (March 1905).

This « strange silence » refers to the fact of our not speaking of the labours of the Inquiry Commission, which fact evidently surprises the members of the Liverpool sect.

These « defenders of humanity » consider it quite natural to spread abroad so-called information about the tenour of the Inquiry Commission's as yet unwritten report, as soon as the members of the Court have disembarked in Europe, nay more, even before they set sail from Africa. And not content with this, they indignantly clamour against the atrocities which have been brought to light and make every effort to take public opinion by storm.

We have long been up to these quack tricks. The noise made does not strike us as bring « strange » and does not surprise us.

We nevertheless wish to clearly state that we consider we should be lacking in ordinary courtesy towards the members of the Commission, were we, as does the *West African Mail*, to make comments on a report, which has not yet been drawn up and to praise or blame its authors according as we are led to believe that their conclusions will be favorable to us or the contrary. We do not think it right, as long as the Commission is deliberating, to make noisy demonstrations on behalf of either side.

The Editor of the *West African Mail* may think otherwise, if it pleases him.

We are glad to notice however that the more rational and independant section of the European and American press does not follow in his steps. The *Times* of October 3rd last said that it would be « a serious error of judgment, if public opinion were definitely and irretrievably committed to hostility before the Commission be given any chance of a hearing. » The *Daily Standard Union* of Brooklyn, in its issue of December 18th, 1904, said that « until the Commission makes its report and exhausts its functions a request for

a suspension of judgment is sustained by every consideration of courtesy and common sense. » « The *National Zeitung* of Berlin (March 4th, 1905) likewise considers it advisable to wait « until the Commission returns and draws up its report. » We could easily mention many more suchlike quotations but will only publish the following extract from the *Preussische Correspondenz* of March 27th.

« Every impartial person will reply to the British accusations that the Commission must first of all make its report to King Leopold and that it would be right to advise the English protectors of the india-rubber trade to have a little more patience in the meantime. »

Will they follow this advice? We doubt it, but notice that our « strange silence » only seems so to them and meets with public favour, both in Europe and America.

THE CROWN PROPERTY AND FORCED LABOUR IN NORTHERN NIGERIA.

Northern Nigeria is one of the latest of Great Britain's colonies, for it was only in 1900 that, with the view of putting an end to the misdoings of the Royal Niger Company, the Government took the latter's place. There is but little British colonial literature to be found dealing with the Niger.

The book written by Colonel Mockler-Ferryman, who accompanied Sir Claude Mac Donald, when, pressed by public opinion, the British Government caused an Inquiry to be made as to the chartered Company's administration; some brief and superficial articles published by reviews and newspapers and a few official reports, documents of a far more military than administrative nature, are about all that have appeared in reference to the vast territories stretching from the sea to Lake Tchad and to the limits of the Sahara.

This paucity can be accounted for if one considers that Northern Nigeria is little or not at all frequented by mercantile men, owing to the monopoly which the Niger Company have practically retained and in consequence of the officials, who are about the only European residents there, being prohibited from writing without the authority of their chiefs.

The book which Mr. Hazzledine has just brought out under the title *The White Man in Nigeria* is, therefore, doubly interesting, first because it deals with a Possession on which documents are scarce and secondly because the writer was Secretary to High Commissioner Sir F. Lugard, and the optimistic views expressed by him emanate from a functionary holding a position such as to enable him to become acquainted with the ideas of governing circles, and the fact that the prohibition above referred to was removed in his favour gives his book a somewhat semi-official character.

We shall not attempt to analyze the book in detail. Numerous are the chapters where the author describes with the remarkable talent of a literary man the various aspects of the country together with the mode of living there. We will only take up the pages bearing upon the special object which the *Vérité sur le Congo* has in view and examine how, in this tropical country which has been open to Europe barely 25 years and whose conditions therefore recall in many respects those of the Congo, England has solved the double problem of land policy and treatment of the natives of which she makes a cause of complaint against the Free State.

The Crown property.

The favourite argument of the Liverpool merchants consists in saying that when the Congo State declared all lands unoccupied by the natives to be domanial property and organized the hitherto unexisting exploitation thereof for the benefit of the public treasury, it spoliated the natives. The following is what England did in Northern Nigeria (1) :—

« The Government has taken to itself all the waste and unclaimed land, that is all; there is no upheaval of native customs in that. « Ah, but, » it will be said, « you have robbed the natives of the minerals. » It is true that the minerals have been annexed, but there is no interference with the native customs in that. The maxim, « *Cujus est solum, ejus est usque ad infernos*, » is no part of the land law of Northern Nigeria. The idea is beyond the comprehension of the people and it is precisely because, with all their reputation for getting them, the natives know nothing about the minerals except such as they can, as in the salt and tin districts, stoop and pick up on the surface, and because the natives in other countries have shown themselves so utterly incapable of realizing the value and importance of the minerals, that the Government has stepped in. Instead of the natives being robbed, they are being protected; they are being assisted in the realization of what they could never get at themselves. Instead of leaving them to barter away what they have never known anything about, the Government is making the bargains for them, and they are getting the fair market price. The royalties on their minerals are not shipped home to enrich a dominant race; they are part of the revenue of the country and will be expended on its public works. The Government is not taking the minerals from the people; it is not a « taking » at all. It is a nationalization; it is a saving of the minerals for the people. »

Therefore, vacant lands, mines, everything in fact whether above or underground which was unexploited at the time of the arrival of Europeans and to which this arrival gave a value, all have been declared the property of the Crown in order to avoid dilapidation by the natives and to turn them to the the best possible account, the sole object in view being the economical and moral developement of the country.

This is perfect. The principle applied in regard to land in Northern Nigeria and so warmly supported by Mr. Hazzledine is the self-same one that the Congo State has always practised.

To give effect to this nationalisation of wealth unemployed by the natives, it is necessary to open up and organize the country by creating roads, railways, &c. These public works are indispensable and the black man of the Niger will be the first to reap benefit but he does not see it, and refuses to freely contribute his manual labour to his own regeneration and, as a logical consequence,

Forced labour had to be instituted (1).

« If a large public work is in hand, and a few thousand labourers are required, the first thing to do is to summon the local chiefs and arrange with them for a supply of men. The call for labour for public works is getting to be a recognised thing (2) now in return for the protection of our administration. Sometimes the labour is at full pay of from 6d. to 9d. a day; sometimes it is free. »

The Congo State also found that the tax in labour which had to be levied was more than paid for by the liberty and security ensured to the natives.

But the State thougt fit to pay the natives whenever called upon to lend their services and if in Northern Nigeria the impressment of labour is sometimes paid for and at other times free, in the Congo it is always renumerated at a rate which cannot be less than the

(1) *The White Man in Nigeria*, p. 92.

(1) *The White Man in Nigeria*, p. 119.
(2) This has therefore not always been the case.

usual scale of wages prevailing in the district.

Mr. Hazzledine limits what he states about the contribution in forced labour to the brief quotation we have given above. It would have been interesting to know whether those thousands of men whom the Government call upon to work always readily comply with this requisition; it would have been well to be informed, for instance, as to what takes place in case they refuse to work, which they undoubtedly do since the author states that so far the requisition is only on *a fair way* to being admitted by the natives. Are they, in that event, liable to be arrested as in the other African colonies and in case of open resistance, does it not become necessary to resort to police measures? Mr. Hazzledine is unfortunately silent on this interesting subject. He reports, it is true, a long series of military expeditions conducted in Northern Nigeria during the last few years, but remarkable to say, not one of them was closely or even remotely connected with the collection of taxes.

Military Expeditions.

He gives accounts of operations where the assailing troops did not loose a single man whereas the enemy *only* lost 300 men in each battle (1), (this looks something like slaughter); of other « pacific » expeditions where fighting only took place after the columns had been attacked by thieves; of another expedition which burnt the town of Abuja which had become a den of thieves (better still); of another to Bautschi which degenerated into a large number of small fights but was especially a long tour of inspection and occupation. It escorted prospectors into the region of the tin mines and settled a Resident after overthrowing the Sultan in power, who had refused to treat; of another one again to Bornoo where the Mallam Gibrella, an anti-abolitionist this time, lost 160 men in a few minutes; « a few villages belonging to Pagan tribes were burnt on the way (the lack of precision is quite amusing), as these had been guilty of murder and robbery; » of a further one against the Sultan of Yola « extremely » unpopular because... he refused to allow » the Niger Co. to trade in his possessions »; of others again « where there was no actual wholesale slaughter as alleged, but only a little gun-practicing or demonstration of force. »

It will thus be seen that if many expeditions went out, they had, according to Mr. Hazzledine, nothing whatever to do with the impressment of labour. This is not every body's opinion. Last year the paper *West Africa* wrote articles about certain **military operations north of the Benin against natives who refused to build some roads** but who set to work about it as soon as the troops had burned their villages and slain their principal warriors. Other English journals mentioned **villages in the Ilorin country that were destroyed for having refused the tax**; it was also affirmed that **Captains O'Riordan and Burney were killed last year by the Okpotos, south-east of Lokoja whilst setting fire to villages which had refused to pay the tax.** The last report of Sir Frederick Lugard himself (1) states that in the province of Kano the **natives attacked the tax collectors and even Captain Phillips' troops despatched to quell the rebellion.**

But the above does not appear in Mr. Hazzledine's book and as we are really dealing with this, it would not be right on our part to press the question.

We shall simply bear in mind that in addition to the great many military expeditions sent out to restore order and peace among the tribes of the Niger, there were also a few Police operations which, like in all British, French, German and Portuguese colonies of tropical Africa, are directly or indirectly brought about by the collection of taxes.

Yet in spite of these few operations, Mr. Hazzledine considers matters in Northern Nigeria to be highly satisfactory. He looks upon a

(1) *The White man in Nigeria*, p. 110.

(1) *Colonial Reports, Northern Nigeria*, 1903.

colonial system the economy of which rests upon two essential elements : crown property and forced labour, as an excellent one.

Why does he then, in his lecture on the Congo, find fault with what he admires in his book on Nigeria? Is it because the one is the work of Belgians and the other that of the British nation? We are inclined to believe this is not so but all we can say then is that in condemning the Congo, Mr. Hazzledine proves that he knows nothing whatever about the country.

FURTHER TESTIMONIES.

Testimony of Lord Mountmorres.

We have already published several interesting statements made by Lord Mountmorres as to what he saw and heard in the Congo. The clearest proof of the truth of this testimony is to be found in the criticisms this writer and traveller had no hesitation in making with reference to abuses he noticed in certain parts of the State. We never denied the fact that abuses do occur in the Congo, as elsewhere. We have collected so many proofs of the hardships of British domination, all over the world, that our readers cannot but be convinced that our colony, at any rate, has no cause to envy British colonies.

Lord Mountmorres allows that the excesses committed (and excesses are committed everywhere) are local and individual. That is what we have always affirmed to be the case.

The following are the accounts of Lord Mountmorres' observations in the Ubangi. How can it be said that the Congolese « system » is fundamentally wrong, when it has had the wonderful results, described in the next few lines?

« I can now form some sort of opinion as to the condition prevailing in at least one of the provinces of the State. I have seen enough to draw very definite conclusions as to the effects of King Leopold's rule in the Ubangi province. Here we have a district of enormous length, stretching about 800 miles along the bank of a river which forms the only practicable means of communication between the different parts of the province and between the province as a whole and the outside world, and which is at the same time, during at least a third of its length, only navigable with the greatest difficulty by native canoes, owing to the formidable rapids of which it is composed. Nature, in short, has done her best to make this district as difficult of access to the outside world as possible, and one might reasonably have expected to find it in a backward state of development, seeing that it is only some eighteen years since the first white man traversed it, and that it is less than sixteen years since the course of the river was even approximately mapped. But what does one actually find? One finds that a mere handful of white men—the whole personnel of this great district numbers only sixteen in all, including the engineer of the little steamer, the postmaster and transport agent, and the doctor—maintain it in a state of contented peace and tranquillity, have opened up roads and other means of communication, have established themselves in many a solitary station, have developed the commerce of the country, and have taught the raw savage to turn his attention to the cultivation of rubber and to the advantages of barter rather than to murder, pillage, and rapine. Cannibalism, though one may suspect that in distant villages in the interior it is still secretly practised, is at least openly repudiated by the whole of a population in which every man over twenty-five years of age was in his younger days in the habit of preying on his fellow creatures. In villages lying far off the beaten track, in which one may still see at every street corner

the little monument of half buried human skulls representing the site of a former feast, one is now safe to come and to go **unarmed and unprotected** and is sure of a cordial and hospitable reception.

» The white man in a country where, as I have said, the natives' only experience of white men is that derived from State officials, is welcomed on all sides with an enthusiasm and a cordiality that are at times apt to be embarrassing. The people, who are said by the opponents of the State to be oppressed and overburdened with the work exacted by way of taxation, are so wildly anxious to show their delight at the arrival of a white man by rendering him service that as one approaches many of the riverine villages the male population leap into the river, and, shrieking, yelling, gesticulating, climb into one's canoe, dispossess one's former paddlers, and *vi et armis* hurl them overboard, in order to have the honour and privilege of conducting one to the next point, an attention that is not unattended with discomfort to the European traveller, but which is conclusive of the fervid affection which the black feels towards the ruling race in this part. **I can imagine no testimony to the efficiency and the benefit of State rule stronger than the scenes one witnesses almost every day in the Ubangi province.** For here we see its effect, not in bringing a feeble people into quiet subjection, but in converting a stalwart, warlike, independent race of savage cannibals into a loyal, contented, and industrious population. Only a few years ago this people was one of the most lawless barriers in the way of white civilisation to be encountered in the whole of Africa, and even to-day the tradition of their cruel savagery is so widespread that you will find that the majority of the very functionaries of the State themselves, who are unacquainted by actual experience with the work which is being done in the Ubangi province, think of the Banza, the Ubangi, and the Banziri tribes as being still the most formidable and untameable cannibals. Yet nowadays the visitor to this part of Africa can travel almost anywhere in perfect security, alone and unarmed, on the State side of the river. He will see in the villages a population which is neither cringing on the one hand nor hostile on the other, a population whose virile energy has been diverted from its old-time occupation of war and robbery to the peaceful industries of forging, smelting, agriculture, and textile handicrafts, such as the making and dying of native cloth, of nets, rope, string, and the elaborate and ingenious contrivances used by natives in the chase.

» I had heard much, both before I reached the Congo and on my way up river, about villages whose inhabitants fled at the approach of the white man, and of others where the whole population spent their day in listless indolence, from which it was impossible to rouse them. In the Ubangi, I must have visited not a score, but hundreds of villages, ranging from little ones, newly established, of ten or a dozen huts, up to towns such as Donga and Baya, with populations running into many thousands, and never did I see the smallest indication of either fear or idleness. If one arrived at midday, the inhabitants in the riverine villages were naturally largely absent, being engaged at their fisheries, but in the early morning or the late afternoon one found them **happy, cheerful, merry, and busily engaged in their domestic occupations**; while in the villages in the interior during the daytime the people were industriously employed either on their plantations or at their net making and their native manufactures.

» Perhaps the best indication of contentment on the part of a savage people is the proportion of young children that one sees. When a country is in a disturbed state, when from any cause there is a lack of sense of security or a restlessness or want of tranquillity present, the first indication is a disinclination on the part of the bulk of the population to take upon themselves the risks and responsibilities of raising families. It is only when a black people rests in a sense of perfect security

that one finds large families; while equally it is only among a prosperous people that the male section of the population can afford a large number of wives. Now, nothing was more remarkable in the Ubangi than the enormous number of quite young children; the proportion was in many villages so large that it seemed almost incredible that they could be all the offspring of the adult population present. At Dongo I counted in one short street of 48 huts (representing, of course, 48 wives, with their slaves and attendants) **no fewer than 52 quite young children**, from newly-born infants to, say, about two years of age; and in the villages immediately below Banzyville, and in the interior at the back of Banzyville, there was scarcely a fully-grown girl who was not already a mother. Certainly this was not an oppressed or downtrodden people; certainly it was not a people lacking in material prosperity. If further confirmation were needed of the wholly beneficial results accruing from the State rule in this part of Africa, I received it amply from the mouths of the native chiefs in the various villages which I visited. Now, it must be understood that these people, an essentially intelligent people, fully realised that I was not a State official, and that I was not of « Bulai Matadi's » tribe. On the contrary, I came to them unaccompanied by any soldiers or other employé of the State. In the majority of cases my porters or my paddlers were those **voluntarily** provided by previous chieftains, and I was escorted generally by some near relative of a native ruler in the immediate vicinity. My personal attendants were my own boys, of whom two were French subjects, one a raw Nziri from near Mokoangi, and the fourth a Portuguese subject. My interpreter for the greater part of the journey was a Zongo from the French side, who was serving his time in the French army, and who was acquainted with the majority of the native dialects.

» In interviewing the chiefs, I was always careful to point out that although I came from Mpotu (Europe), I did not come from « Bulai Matadi's » country, nor was I of his people, but that my tribe were very interested in Bulai Matadi's work in Africa, and some of them had asked me to find out whether they, the blacks, were happy under Bulai Matadi. In this way I interviewed every chief of importance within a two days' march of the river, along the whole length of the Ubangi on the State side. Although their names may convey little to English readers unacquainted with this part of Africa, I kept a record of the replies of each individually, and almost without exception they all testified, not in mere monosyllables, but with considerable enthusiasm, to the advantages they had derived from the advent of the white man. I was struck with the acumen that most of them displayed, more particularly the tribal chiefs, in recognising wherein the advantages of civilisation lay. For instance, in every case I asked them if they had anything to complain of, if the white man oppressed them, ill-treated them or their people, stole from them or made them work without paying them, and whether they were contented with the pay they received. In the great majority of cases their replies were quite unanimous in favour of the State officials, but two chiefs, joint rulers of a small village, when I put the question with regard to their being content with the pay they received, said the pay was sufficient, but that before the white man came they did not have to work at all. A tribal chief, who was present at the time, interposed with, « Yes, that is true, **but your people had no clothes, and your wives were stolen by X..., Y..., Z..., mentioning other chieftains in the neighbourhood.** » This ready appreciation of the fact that the security which follows in the train of civilisation must be paid for, coming, as it did, from an untutored savage, was most startling. »

(Extract from the *Globe*, London, March 9th 1905.)

* * *

Lord Mountmorres' tenth article published in the London *Globe*, relating his travels in

the Congo Free State is no less interesting and instructive than his preceding ones. The writer however now enters into many details which unfortunately are not in the sphere of our paper. On this account we regret to be able to give nothing but a sketch of it :—

What Lord Mountmorres subsequently saw only served to confirm his favourable impressions. Of all the country he had visited up to the time of writing this latest article, he regarded as quite the most interesting that part lying between Mokoangi and Yakoma, peopled by two great tribes, the Banza and the Banziri, a race on the whole far more nearly allied to the Northern Africans than they are to the ordinary forest tribes of the Congo. Wherever Lord Mountmorres went he found peace and contentment. He describes, as typical, a journey he made from Banzyville to visit the great chief Baya in his capital. The road lay through a continuous succession of large villages stretching right back two days march from Banzyville into the interior. Lord Mountmorres had heard many stories of the dense population of parts of the country, but it was not until he came into this region that he had any realisation of its full extent.

» Village succeeded plantation, and plantation succeeded village in an almost unbroken series, and every bypath and sideway off the route was similarly populated. In most of the few places of open country which remained, embryo villages were springing up before one's eyes, and this in a land which the Congophobists would have us believe is being depopulated and laid waste by the Congo State authorities. In all the villages Lord Mountmorres was welcomed with the same effusive cordiality as he had encountered along the river, the chiefs and notables everywhere coming out to meet him and bid him welcome. The natives were blithesome, and their rulers comported themselves with ceremonious dignity ; all of which is singular in a people whose spirit is supposed to have been broken by the ruthless tyranny of the Belgians. »

Arrived at the capital, Baya showed Lord Mountmorres over the town, and « anything more beautifully kept, more scrupulously clean, or more picturesquely constructed it would be impossible to imagine. » It consisted of a number of villages, each having, amongst other things, its own forge ; all of them busily at work in the welding of spears and knives, cunningly and beautifully wrought. Another capital visited by Lord Mountmorres was that of the chief Gembelle, who showed the visitor all over, not only the group of villages composing the township, but even that *sanctum sanctorum*, his own personal hamlet, in which were his fifty-six wives and their suites and retinues. He took the greatest pride in pointing out the wonders of his country, including the enormous Great Assembly House, constructed of a kind of open basket work with a deep thatch roof, and the blast furnace in which the iron ore from his own mines was reduced by a native process.

» This, let it be remembered, is all under Congo rule, so diligently declared by Congophobists to be the embodiment of all iniquity and corrosively destructive. In face of it, and of similar testimony which Lord Mountmorres and others have given, the Congophobists would be wise if they moderated their exultation over the « exposure » which they now seem to be quite satisfied awaits the Congo State Government at the hands of the Commission of Inquiry. That the Commission's report will be a faithful one we do not for a moment doubt ; but we question very much whether it will be just what the Congophobists expect, or altogether to their taste. »

(*African World*, March 25th.)

* * *

Testimony of Mr. Clarke, protestant missionary.

It is interesting to connect Lord Mountmorres statements, which have just been read, with other evidence emanating also from an

Englishman, the Rev. J. A. Clarke, of the Garenganze Mission, but relating to quite another part of the Congo territory, namely the Katanga.

We are indebted to a friend, Mr. Constant Vervloet, a regular Congolese, for being enabled to lay before our readers these documents of importance in the Anglo-Congolese contention. Mr. Vervloet's last stay in Africa was at Lukafu from June 1901 to January 1903, as *chef de secteur* of the Upper-Luapula in the far south-east division of the Free State. It was on this occasion that our fellow-countryman entered into communication with Mr. Clarke, whose station was originally at Mwena, three miles from Lukafu, and afterwards removed to Koni Hill, some fifteen miles up country.

The following are a few fragments of letters written to Mr. Vervloet by Mr. Clarke. They prove the excellent relations that existed between them. They show that the missionaries were favourably treated by the Belgian resident. Further, they confirm, by independant testimony, that the natives are nowise suffering from the Government to which they are subjected.

Mr. Clarke wrote on October 20th 1902, from Koni Hill :—

« Dear Mr. Vervloet,

» Your kind note of yesterday's date just to hand, and again I am indebted to you for your kind thought and attention and desire heartily to thank you for all your kind services which you have so willingly rendered...

» Again thanking you and with my warmest good wishes. »

Mr. Clarke wrote on November 2nd 1902, from Koni Hill :—

« My dear Mr. Vervloet,

» I write openly and frankly to you, *knowing you have ever the good and welfare of this people before you in all your dealings with them...* »

Mr. Clarke further wrote on December 11th 1902, from Koni Hill :—

« Dear Mr. Vervloet,

» Very many thanks for so kindly forwarding my mail, which I received safely yesterday...

» Your term is just about out I presume, but I hope to be along to see you before you leave, just by way of wishing you a safe and prosperous journey to the homeland.

» Again thanking you and with kindest regards to all the gentlemen with you. »

Mr. Clarke finally wrote on December 31st 1902, the following important letter :—

« Dear Mr. Vervloet,

» Herwith please find a book which please accept as a token of our esteem and expression of our best wishes for your future. *Allow me also to thank you on behalf of this mission for all you kind thoughtfullness and the many nobles services you have so willingly and kindly rendered during your term of service at Lukafu.* We shall always remember it with joy and greatfulness and we hope we will have the pleasure of seeing you back again.

» With best wishes, &c.

» (*s.*) John A. Clarke. »

What is more extraordinary is that an English missionary, Mr. Campbell, *belonging to the same Mission as Mr. Clarke*, but who had always resided in British territory, in Mr. Vervloet's time at least, and who was, therefore, unable to personally observe what was going on in the Katanga, took upon himself to strongly criticise the system prevailing in that region and level at our countrymen charges of the gravest character (see the *West African Mail, Special Congo Issue*, August 1904). It so happens that the only English missionaries residing in that district emphatically deny Mr. Campbell's statements.

(*Étoile belge*, April 1st.)

* * *

Testimony of the Prémontré Father, G. Beynen.

Our *Federation* has received from the Rev. Father Gérard Beynen of the Prémontre Order, the following letter, which constitutes a most valuable testimony in the Anglo-Congolese contention :—

« Ibembo (Tongerloo St.-Norb. Mission)
January 11th, 1905.

» Mr. President,

» I have had an opportunity of reading in the supplement of the *Bien public* of July 31st, 1904, the important letter addressed to you under date of March 15th last by Mgr. Roelens, Titular Bishop of Djerba, Apostolic Vicar of the Upper Congo, which is a dignified and cool protest against the attacks levelled at H. M. our King and those countrymen of ours who in Africa are devoting themselves to the great work founded by His Majesty. Your most illustrious correspondent refers to that portion of the Congo which was evangelized by the White Fathers of Cardinal Lavigerie and properly states that he believes it applies to the whole of the Congo...

» Allow me to humbly add a word to the many statements, more authoritative than mine, that have been made in favour of our African Colony and to speak a little about that remote District of Uélé of which I have gone over the greater part, practically the whole in fact, on different occasions via all the roads leading to the different posts and mission stations which we have been fortunate enough to establish in that extensive district.

» In the first place, regarding the often disputed freedom of trade in the Congo, I declare that in 1902, 1903 and 1904, I saw on the road from the Amadis to Suronga, an Arab dealer, preceded by his porters, loaded with all sorts of goods, freely disposing of them to the knowledge of the State agents; near the Niangara post, I met another Arab who had fitted up some tents and was selling and buying in all liberty. I distinctly recollect having met him later on at the post of Niangara itself, where he had come to lodge a complaint for having been robbed by the natives; I further saw at Dungu several other Arab dealers freely going about and also doing business just as freely.

» Referring, in the second place, to the alleged cruelties and inhuman crimes, charged to our fellow-countrymen in the English publications, as having taken place with the sanction of the Government, I emphatically deny them so far as the portion of the Congo with which I am thoroughly acquainted, namely Uélé, is concerned.

» Having, in the absence of the Very Rev. Apostolic Prefect of Uélé, fulfilled the duties of that high office, from February 1903 to March of last year, I roamed over it from Ibembo to Sumbari and beyond, I saw every nook and corner of the place, I travelled on foot, in a pirogue, on muleback, over the State highways as well as over the small paths leading to the native villages, where—be it said in passing—I stayed many days and nights and heard the natives fearlessly and openly talking about their interests and **I never saw a single act of cruelty committed by any agent of the State.**

» All the State agents, more particularly the Belgian officers with whom I had the honour to be acquainted in the Uélé, have shown themselves worthy of our small, but beloved country.

» I am in the position to affirm that on several occasions I had the advantage to travel with the highest authorities of the Congo State Government and thus got information as to how they took up and even punished the slightest cases of abuse of which any agent had proved guilty.

» Like Mgr. Roelens in the territory under his jurisdiction, I found order, peace, security, abundance and joy. No trace whatever of inhuman oppression, or of an unbearable yoke. Nor is the work imposed upon the blacks at all exorbitant. In this connection, the authorities do not by any means lose sight of the black's stupefying propensity towards *dolce farniente* : the smallest labour at first seems, and very soon turns out to be for him a regular burden!

» All those who came out before us have agreed, those who are now with us do agree, and those to come after us will agree in say-

ing that neither the State in its sphere of action, nor we, Catholic Missionaries, who are labouring solely towards the religious and moral improvement of the negro, in our sphere, will be able to do anything in that direction unless the black can be made to understand the obligation to work and to see the necessity of it. I am speaking of reasonable work having regard to his habits of sloth and idleness and do not think any other is imposed!

» As regards justice, this is already working satisfactorily all over the territory of the State. There are of course brutes to be met with here like at home and the law punishes them here as with you. What more is required? Can the State be expected to have already organized the Police force and the gendarmerie? Let it at least be given time to do so! As a general rule, the white men are liked out here. For my part I have every reason to be satisfied with the officers and agents of the State. They are kind and devoted men to us—in every post where I was fortunate enough to stop, I always admired the discipline and appearance of the soldiers, coupled with the respect their had for they white chiefs.

» May I be allowed in conclusion to place before the detractors of the King's great undertaking what Sir Samuel Baker, the great English explorer, testified after residing in Africa:—

« The African, he says, like other races, will remain a negroe by his natural instincts wherever he is removed to, and his natural instincts, being love of idleness and barbarism, he will surely become idle and barbarous unless governed in a special way and compelled to be industrious. The history of the negro has proved the soundness of my theory. As soon as he is abandoned to himself, he invariably retrogrades; like a horse at liberty he becomes wild again. If you put him to work, there cannot be a more useful animal. This conclusion unfortunately clashes with public opinion in Europe, where the voice of the people considers itself entitled to finally adjudicate upon things and men it knows nothing about. » That should be noted by the English claiming as they do to defend suffering humanity.

» I will repeat to well-meaning persons who perhaps have allowed themselves to be impressed by the affirmations of the opponents of the Congo undertaking, what the late Father Van Tricht, S. J., the mild lecturer once said before a choice assembly : « Do you remember the raging tempests?... the sweeping outrages, lies and calumnies raised amidst a tremendous outcry like those gigantic tornadoes which during thunderstorms blind and devastate our regions? They were turning round and round, whizzing spitefully about the braves out yonder, furiously trying to vilify their giant's work and to cast it into the disgrace of every-day swindles... How many times have I thought of what those poor exiles had to suffer when, in the solitude of bush and rock, dead tired from work, exhausted by the trying sun of the mountains, they would take up and read the newspapers from home by way of resting and refreshing their mind... Oh! the rising tide of outrages would come up to them, drowning in bitterness their strength and courage! Yet they did not lose pluck, they went on to the end, through indifference and ingratitude and now justice is done. The achievement is there, gigantically standing up, defying the detractors and glorifying those who have devoted to it the best of their soul and of their life.

» I will not proceed further, although I could say a good deal more, having on several occasions seen Lord Mountmorres and Mr. R. Marcus Dorman; we had long conversations together and I can assert that these gentlemen are delighted with their journey. Lord Mountmorres told me that he would say so before all Europe and declare that he freely questioned some thirty great chiefs of the Ubangi, that one only had something to find fault with, namely... « that his flag was torn!... »

» The above is the plain truth, told by a Catholic missionary, who has no interest in distorting the facts.

» I have, &c.

» (*s.*) Gerard Beynen,
» of the Prémontrés
» Missionary in the Uele. »

A FEW RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

I.

A study by Mr. Ernest Nys.

Mr. Ernest Nys, Counsellor at the Court of Appeal and Professor at Brussels University, has just published in the *Revue de droit international et de législation comparée* a complete study on *consular jurisdiction*. The author, a man well read in international law, demonstrates the fact that consular jurisdiction is gradually decreasing in importance, in that it does not agree with territorial jurisdiction.

« In old times, exceptions did occur in Europe as well as in certain parts of Asia and Africa. In the XIXth century, treaties made with Asiatic Powers considerably increased the area to be worked in; and at the end of the century, vast territories placed themselves under the exclusive system of territorial jurisdiction; all that is necessary to prove this is to point out the large possessions acquired by civilized countries and to bear in mind the fact that Japan, in 1899, regained full power to enforce its sovereign rights. »

Mr. Ernest Nys also examines the clauses of the treaties made in 1884 and 1885 between certain European powers and the International Congo Association. By these clauses England and Sweden claimed the power of jurisdiction for their consuls in the Congo.

Mr. Franz von Liszt, Professor at Berlin University, says in his work *Systematic treaty on the rights of mankind* (3rd edition, 1904, p. 134) that « the fact that the Congo State has joined the commonwealth of international law must make this claim void. »

Mr. Nys proves that, in the 1884 treaty, « the British Government only wished to make arrangements to meet an altogether temporary state of affairs and, by the text of the treaty, shewed that it foresaw and fully understood that the right it then claimed was to disappear. »

That is not all : an English writer, Sir Henry Jenkins, in his work entitled *British administration and jurisdiction beyond the seas* (1902, p. 158) shewed that « the simple fact of allowing consular jurisdiction is not in accordance with article 8 of the Convention. »

These extracts shew that the claims of the Congo Reform Association have no standing, either by law or fact, as far as concerns consular jurisdiction in the Congo. And yet these claims are set up after the abolition of consular jurisdiction in Cyprus, by order of the English High Commissioner, in Madagascar, in Zanzibar, in Japan, &c. Such bring the case, it would be an unjustifiable anomaly to introduce it in the Congo.

II.

The book of Sir Charles Eliot on the East Africa Protectorate.

Sir Charles Eliot, who was His British Majesty's High Commissioner for the East Africa Protectorate between January 1901 and June 1904 and whose resignation, tendered on account of a misunderstanding with the Home Government, was much commented on last year, has just published a general and deep study on this region entitled *The East Africa Protectorate*.

This study is interesting in several ways and contains much valuable information for people whose mind is at all taken up with the African colonial problem.

We have picked out of it several passages which we recommend to the special attention of the Congo opponents.

A financial syndicate in British East Africa.

This is the reason which decided the author to resign the important post he was filling (p. VII of the Preface).

« I tendered my resignation because I was ordered to cancel grants made by me to private persons in conformity with my general instructions, and to cancel them in a way which seemed to me wholly unjust and liable to accusations of favouritism, for I was at the same time directed to give the *East Africa Syndicate* a grant of ten times the size of the others, and in the same district, on unusually favourable terms, which were in themselves disadvantageous to the general interests of the Protectorate. The reason assigned for these instructions was that the relatively small private grants were an infringement of native rights, because the district in which they were situated was to be made a native reserve. If no grants whatever had been made in this area, the decision would have been just, though its wisdom might be doubted; but it appeared (and still appears) to me that the position of an officer who revokes a grant which he has made on the ground that it interferes with native rights, and at the same time gives in the same district *a large concession* to a syndicate *which must interfere far more with native rights*, is untenable. »

We ask the Secretary of the Congo Reform Association the following question : « Why did he not point out this abuse and neglect of native rights to the indignation of his readers? » We can but conclude that it is a certain fact that he only seeks for the amelioration of the natives' gate outside British territory and that their situation on English land does not interest him at all.

India-rubber in British East Africa.

By some strange mistake, the Secretary of the Congo Reform Association describes the Congolese system of rubber-collecting as causing the exhaustion of the natural sources of the precious sap.

We have always maintained that the most ruinous way of going to work is that of sweeping up, which allows African natives and Liverpool merchants alike, to drain a colony altogether, without the least care for the future.

Sir Charles Eliot confirms our opinion on page 162 of his book :—

« Hitherto, the collection of rubber has not been much encouraged, as it was entirely in the hands of natives, who were under no supervision, and used the most ruthless methods, so that a large demand was likely to mean the extinction of the crop. A creeper like the Landolphia is more likely to suffer than any form of standing tree, for the reckless native collector simply cuts through the stem and lets it bleed at both ends. Recently, however, **concessions for india-rubber tapping have been given to Europeans in Arabuko, Sekoki and Mwele**; and it may be hoped that, with proper supervision of the tapping and replanting, the yield will considerably increase. »

What will then be the difference between the Congo system of concessions and that of British East Africa?

The trade of firearms in British East Africa.

« Greater vigilance in preventing the entrance of firearms is desirable, for it cannot be denied that somehow or other a good many old weapons find their way, though through what door is not quite clear, into the hands of natives. »

It will be remembered that Mr. Casement laid great stress on the illicit introduction of firearms into the Congo. Why does England not apply her « reforming » zeal to East Africa?

Punitive expeditions.

It is said that England only sends out these expeditions when obliged to do so in self defence. Their results as far as the natives are concerned are well-known; villages are burnt, the populations massacred, &c....

The following passage (pp. 200 and 201) will throw some light on the question.

« If there were no decorations, there would be fewer of these little wars. Every

administrator ought to regard a punitive expedition as an evil, and in some ways an admission of failure, and ought to take care that the love of decorations, or even the worthier desire of giving the troops some practice and experience in military operations, is not allowed to override the greater claims of justice and good policy. »

Slavery in a British Protectorate.
A confession.

The author blames his fellow-countrymen for allowing the continuation of slavery, as being a recognized institution and one sanctioned by the law courts of the East Africa Protectorate coast region.

In the Congo, slavery is forbidden *everywhere.*

« Slaves, says Sir Charles Eliot (pp. 234 and 235) are allowed to claim their manumission as a right in Zanzibar, and the Zanzibar Government, in whose finances the British Treasury is not directly interested, are obliged to compensate the master for the loss of his slave. In the East Africa Protectorate, in whose finances the British Treasury is directly interested, freedom cannot be claimed as a right, and the British Government will not compensate masters. »

« The contrast, adds the author, is certainly unfortunate, and illustrates what foreigners call our hypocrisy. This is a charge which we are never able to understand, nor will anything shake the confident belief of the average Briton that as a nation we are far more honest and truthful than the other peoples of Europe. *Nevertheless it does no doubt happen that we sometimes pursue with vehemence a policy of disinterested justice, and suddenly make an exception when we find that our own interests are involved.* »

This needs no comments!

Scientific activity.

The Congo State has often earned loud praise for the keenness it displays in organising and furthering scientific studies throughout its territories. There is but one opinion on this subject.

Sir Charles Eliot declares, on the contrary (p. 257), that « the scientific departments have been almost entirely neglected in the British possessions. »

The system in vogue on the Upper Nile.

The author—this is the last quotation we shall refer to—reproduces without going into the subject (p. 295) the rumours (whose origin and value our readers are aware of) spread about concerning the abuses the Congolese Government is reproached with having allowed to take place in the Lado Enclave.

But, and this is an important point, be points out that, *on the English bank*, as well as on the Congolese bank, there are few inhabitants near the river, « on account of the old raids of the Dervishes. »

Were we not right in saying that Sir Charles Eliot's book was instructive in many respects? We hope that people, who may have taken Lord Cromer's opinion about the Enclave as facts, without due reflection on the subject, will pay some attention to Sir Charles Eliot's remarks, as they totally refute the criticisms made against Belgium, after an extremely rapid journey towards Lake Albert, by the British Consul in Egypt.

III.

The History of the Congo-State, by Henry W. Wack.

An American publicist, Mr. Henry Wellington Wack, Member of the New-York Bar, whom several years of special study of the African question have made familiar with it, has just brought out a book, edited by Putnam, entitled : *The History of the Congo Free State.* The author was allowed access to the State archives and a special authority from the King-Sovereign enabled him to examine and take copies of all official documents, as is

proved by the exceptionally abundant matter contained in his book. No statement could be more complete and more precise. But there is a special circumstance which gives this important work its full value : that is its impartiality. Mr. Wellington Wack has taken special care not to tie down his liberty of action in regard to the Congo authorities. Moreover, he did not—he says so himself—submit the proofs of his book to any body.

How did the idea of this work « without fear and without reproach » occur to Mr. Wellington-Wack?

This he explains in the preface :—

« During a residence of several years in the United Kingdom, I could not fail to observe the growth there of an organised campaign against the Congo Free State. That a small section of the British public, interested in the rubber trade, should by subtle means seek to delude or should even succeed in deluding the great British nation so completely as to obtain general credence for its stories of cruelty and oppression alleged against King Leopold's Government, failed to move me. It was not my concern, while enjoying the hospitality of England, to criticise the way in which her religious organisations were being used to further the selfish aims of a small *clique* of Liverpool merchants. But when, within the past year, I perceived that the campaign of calumny against the Congo Free State was being extended to the United States, I could not longer regard the phenomenon with a merely passive interest. It occurred to me that my knowledge of Central-African affairs might enable me to place before the American people a complete statement of the actual facts of the Congo Free State, and that my self-imposed task could not fail to be of value at a time when interested partisans were endeavouring to deceive them. »

Such is Mr. Wellington-Wack's starting point. His work can be said to form a veritable Congolese encyclopedia. We could not possibly attempt to give here a full idea of the subject-matter collected in this handsome book of about 700 pages, containing a selection of documents and elucidated by maps and 125 illustrations obtained by photography. But one can imagine what this work embraces when we say that it sets out or deals with everything connected with the origin of the State, its history, its position in point of international law, the economical regime instituted by the Berlin Act, the question of slavery and war against the Arabs, the administrative organisation, the missions, the financial system, agriculture, &c., to say nothing of the many reproductions of testimonies of eye—witnesses and opinions of the Press in all countries.

Nor is it necessary to say that this magnificent review does not leave anything in the shade so far as the material point of view of the country is concerned. But what is specially interesting for us, as regards our publication, is to know what the author thinks about the anti-congolese movement. We would direct particular attention to the chapter that could be entitled : the philosophy of the English campaign. Mr. W. Wack explains therein with irrefutable logic, how easily, in a country politically constituted as England is, where the suffrage is almost universal, those speculating on rubber together with those speculating on religion have been able to influence John Bull's national character and political sentimentalism. He adds, in reference to this « strange alliance »—to quote his own terms :—

« Protestant missionaries of various sects, in rivalry with each other, but often alike in being envious of the superior results obtained by Roman Catholic missionaries in the Congo Free State, denounce the Congo Government as a gang of barbarous extortioners, oppressors, murderers. A small but active set of Liverpool merchants, dismayed at finding that what twenty years ago they regarded as worthless has, under judicious Belgian administration, become a valuable asset, and some of whom appear willing to resort to any means by which they may at least be enabled to share the prize, join their forces to those of the missionaries. Lies fall as thickly as leaves in

Vallombrosa. No sooner is one mendacious story refuted than ten others take its place. The Congo campaign multiplies its adherents, it gathers force daily, its voice becomes more and more thunderous, until at last it invades the British House of Commons and moves a British minister to write a puerile dispatch to the Great Powers, which the Great Powers, in the exercise of their common-sense, politely ignore. Only up to a certain point does Baron Münchausen triumph. »

Mr. Wellington-Wack, recalling in detail the case of Burrows, points out, in detail also, with what bad faith and incredible action a portion of the English Press has succeeded in stirring up in England a facticious movement of public opinion. He draws a comparison between the genuine and full guarantee afforded by the constitution of the Commission of Inquiry presided over by Mr. Edmond Janssens, and the conditions attending the journey of « Mr. Roger Casement who traversed ground carefully mapped out for him, and interviewed natives specially instructed in their parts by the persons whose agitation had occasioned his mission. The result was precisely what might have been expected, and that without impeachment of Mr. Casement's integrity—an inaccurate and partial report. That report, magnified, distorted, garbled, has afforded material for the enemies of the Congo Free State upon which they have not yet ceased to work. The refutation of all its more important pronouncements will probably not disconcert Mr. Casement's believers in the least, as they are immune to the logic of facts. »

We will conclude this necessarily incomplete analysis by quoting the following lines which close and sum up the book :

« The growth of the Congo Free State has from the first been skilfully directed by clever men of thought and action. Now that the transformation is complete, and what but three short decades ago was the very heart of savagery has become a valuable commercial and political asset, the forcible ejectment from the African Continent of the authors of all this good is openly discussed ! Such is the reward which it is proposed should be meted out to the gallant, self-sacrificing little nation which has replaced the horrors of barbarism by the blessings of civilisation, and incidentally discovered vast material wealth. After disposing of the Belgian African possession, that international pigmy, Portugal, occupying Delagoa Bay to the obvious chagrin of Britain, will be served with the long-expected writ of ejectment. These little fellows in Africa will have but one choice of leaving—by the door or by the window. Will the world tolerate such iniquity?—an iniquity of the baser sort, veiled with specious pretence. Much depends upon the attitude of the American people—youngest of the great nations, herself too recently emerged from the trials and tribulations which beset every newly created State not to discriminate between greed and hypocritical pretence on the one hand and conscientious well-doing on the other.

THE BEAUTIES OF BRITISH COLONISATION.

General interest is just at this time so taken up with « inquiry, » « colonial atrocities » and « system » of administration, which cannot be enforced « without continual abuses, » that it is well worth while glancing over the recent report laid before the Governor of Western Australia by a Royal Commissioner, Mr. Walter E. Roth, who had been delegated to investigate upon the condition of the natives and the system of labour in use in that British colony.

Western Australia belongs to the Australian Federation and was granted autonomy in 1890 (the last of the Australian colonies to do so). Its area is about $1^3/_4$ million square miles and its population 6,000 natives and just under 200,000 white colonials.

The latter, aided and abetted by the local police, treat the natives so cruelly that public opinion throughout Europe would certainly have risen in revolt had not distance and actual political events apparently somewhat turned away the attention of the daily press.

Our readers will find in the following sketch of Mr. Roth's report terrible examples of general abuses, **due to the social regime itself of the Colony** and in striking contrast with the local and individual excesses, which have occurred in the Congo and in other colonies. The description of the Congolese « forest guardians » given by the Editor of the *West African Mail* is also well known. Readers, we leave you to judge whether, supposing him to be sincere, his indignation would not have found a far more fitting object in the behaviour of the « native trackers, » armed with the latest pattern rifles and ordered to pursue the wretched native of Western Australia.

The main injustice the natives have to complain of is that their land possessions are taken away from them i. e. and this is important, the lands they occupy and which constitute a necessary of life for them. In the Congo State, on the other hand, the lands occupied by the natives and necessary to their existence **have invariably been left to them**; their rights are defended by a careful collection of legal precautions; the future increase of the native population has even been taken into account. The only parts of the land the State has taken for itself are those over which the natives have never had any rights whatever, which they had no interest in, did not till and on which they had no crops. In Western Australia Mr. Roth says (p. 27 of the *Report*) : « A grave responsibility rests upon the Executive in pursuing a policy of allowing large areas of country to be taken up and occupied without the slightest provision being made for the natives, who are thus dispossessed of their hunting grounds. » The Commissioner is of opinion that three unforeseeing measures of land policy will entail disastrous results. « So long as the land can be taken up at a few shillings per thousand acres, and no provision made for the dependant blacks who can and are being hunted off it, there certainly will be trouble... If the natives continue to be dispossessed of the country upon which they are dependant for their food and water supplies, by their lands being rented for grazing rights at a nominal figure — lands from which the lessees naturally desire to drive them—bloodshed and retribution will be certain to ensue » (p. 28 of the *Report*).—« Experience, reason, common sense, and justice, says the Secretary of the Congo Reform Association, tells us that it is as wrong as it is foolish, and as foolish as it is wrong, to treat native rights of land—tenure as non—existant » (*King Leopold's Rule in Africa*, p. 91). One might swear that these reproches which are utterly unfounded as far as the Congo State is concerned, are directed against Western Australia.

What is left for the Australians, once they are deprived of their sole means of existence?

Most of them are obliged to enter the

service of British colonials under conditions we are about to point out.

« The interests of the native are certainly not protected against the fitness or unfitness of his future employer, there being nothing to prevent the greatest scoundrel unhung, European or Asiatic, *putting under contract any blacks he pleases*... Wages are not stipulated for in the contract, and it is only in about one case out of seven that they are alleged to be paid. A total of 369 contracts is known to the Chief Protector of the natives, while the number in receipt of wages according to their contract is 53 ; on the other hand, he has no means of satisfying himself whether the wages are actually being paid... According to the evidence brought before your Commissioner, **none of these natives, throughout the North-West of the Colony, receive wages** » (*Report*, pp. 6 to 8).

The « contracting » parties are placed on a too evidently unequal footing :—

« Breaches of contract are provided for, but the Act (55 Victoria, No. 25) brings into prominence an unjust inequality of punishment for the two contracting parties : the native may receive up to three months' imprisonment, with or without hard labour, while the employer can only be mulcted by fine. »

The Congolese legislation, on the other hand, punishes with a fine of from £1 to £20 and with hard labour from 1 week to 6 months or with one of these sentences only, *any master* or dependant, who, of his own free will, refuses to comply with the legal clauses of a contract of service voluntarily entered in on both sides (art. 11 of the decree of November 8th, 1888).

The following is the Commissioner's final appreciation of this method of procedure : « Even without contracts the blacks are not free to come and go as they please. The assistance of the police is also invoked to bring such runaways back, an official acquiescence which is of course quite illegal : **the native is practically forced to work for his so-called master.** »

And while all this was happening in Australia (not to mention any other British colonies at present), were not the whole of the anti-Congolese British press and even several M. P's storming at the system of « slavery, » « forced labour, » which, as they pretended, is at present in force in the Congo.

But our readers have not yet been made acquainted with what may be termed the *best side of the « West Australian system »* : we mean the native police (p. 12 of the *Report*) and the treatment of native prisoners (p. 13 and the following).

The natives, dispossessed of their hunting grounds, are sometimes guilty of cattle stealing. The repression of these offences is entrusted to native policemen, who, by the way, are also recruited by force. « When the police want a man they pick out what they consider is a good boy and put him on the list, but there is no signing on. »

Suppose that some cattle belonging to a settler has been stolen or killed. A band of policemen, armed with Winchester rifles and carying heavy chains to place round the prisoners' necks, sets out to arrest the guilty parties. « The offenders are « tracked » and arrested without warrant. Very often, there is no proper information laid, in that it is verbal : when already out on patrol, there may be no information at all. »

Another hardly credible fact, **the native policemen are paid in proportion to the number of prisoners and witnesses they bring in and to the number of days they keep them.** « The police receive from one and sixpence halfpenny to two shillings and fivepence daily per head » (page 14 of the *Report*). It is easy to imagine how the black policemen, who can arrest natives without a warrant and under no supervision whatever, simply revel in their business. « By their own assertions, the police own that every native caught means more money in their pocket... At present there is nothing to prevent the constable arresting as many blacks as he chooses, while there is no limit to the number

of witnesses he is allowed to being in with him » (p. 15 of the *Report*).

And so, it is not surprising to find that «little boys» of immature age have been brought in to give evidence, that children varying in age between 10 and 16 are charged with killing cattle, that blacks do not realize what they are sentenced for, that an old and feeble native arrives at the end of his journey in a state of collapse and dies 18 days after admission into gaol (p. 15 of the *Report*).

Besides this, the navive police do not find only pecuniary profit among the prisoners and witnesses : — the policemen who escort these people to the law courts encamp during the nights with their convoy of prisoners and these worthy guardians make it a rule on such occasions to force the women who are brought in, chained up, as witnesses. « Of the two constables examined, one takes no precautions at night to prevent the assisting stockmen and and trackers having sexual connection with the chained-up female witnesses and yet supposes such intercourse to go on : the other never watches his trackers, who might carry on in this way, and never takes any notice of these things — it would have caused trouble if he did » (p. 14 of the *Report*).

What a truly wonderful system! And how enviable is the lot of the native born in Western Australia, under the careful protection of British laws!

The prisoners and witnesses at last reach the Court. The police, who are so fond of bringing in « witnesses, » never, however, find one for the defence. « No witnesses are ever brought in for the defence » (*Report*, p. 16). And these, the verdict is *always* guilty : one policemen heard by the Commissioner Roth and « who has brought about, or perhaps over, 100 natives into Court does not remember any who have been found « not guilty » (*Report*, p. 16).

The whole brutality of the present system, says the commissioner, p. 18, is brought into prominence when the acting « Resident Magistrate sentences a child of ten years of age to *six months' hard labour* for that he did, on or about 10th September, 1904, near Cartridge Springs, unlawfully kill and carry away one head of cattle, the property of S. Muggleton, contrary to statute then and there provided. »

We will in a few lines achieve the picture of what the Commissioner himself calls :

a system.

Convicts are chained by the neck, during the whole of their sentence. « Two very degrading and yet remediable features of the prison system are the neck-chains, and their continuous use—morning, noon, and night—usually throughout the entire period of sentence » (p. 18 of the *Report*). Except in times of sickness, &c., the prisoner is neck-chained from the day he comes into gaol until the day he leaves it, sometimes from two to three years and upwards, according to sentence (p. 19). Still neck-chained, the prisoners work on the roads, as much as eight hours daily, under the tropical sun and in such a parched country as is Western Australia (p. 19 of the *Report*).

Our Conclusion?

We will borrow it from that charming and stylish writer, the Editor of the *West African Mail* (*Special Congo Supplement*, March 1905, p. 268) :—

« The system — direct cause of all the horrors which have shocked civilisation — is unworkable without atrocity and endemic abuse, for the whole conception is a denial of freedom of any kind to the native. It can only exist by force, for force is of its essence. Its claims are monstrous in precept and in practice. Its maintenance is the subjugation of a whole race to a handful of greedy capitalists. So long as it endures, no Commission on earth can bring about radical reform... even if it would. »

Is that not beautifully written? And Mr. Morel, it must be by a slip of the pen, has added to these lines, which evidently refer to Western Australia : « *and the Congo State*, as at present constituted, would fall to pieces if the system were changed. »

MINOR CHRONICLE.

The plan of the Congo Reform Association.— Leading the anti-Congolese compaign is far too paying a trade for the organ of the Liverpool marchants to give it up as yet

Its plan is evident. It intends to throw discredit beforehand on the work of the Commission. This is no easy task, for the British Government has paid tribute to the merits of the Commissioners and all the English missionaries to whom a hearing was given, are unanimous in bearing witness to their impartiality.

All this, however, is but a trifle. The work of the Commission is of no value whatever; firstly because it only dealt with such abuses as the system of administration may have led to, whereas it is the system itself which is attacked and secondly, because the Commission only visited part of the State's territory.

The second objection is soon dealt with, for the Commissioners went through the Upper Congo, as far as Stanleyville and stayed nearly a whole month in the Abir concession. On the other hand, a short journey of Mr. Casement's as far as the Equator—that is, a journey just half as long—and a stay of *four* days in the territory of the Abir were sufficient to have it proclaimed that the whole State was moaning under a system of cruelty.

The first objection is not one, it is a confession. What interests the Liverpool sect, they at last own to it, is the system of administration; that system which enforces a moderate and rational working of the soil instead of the « sweeping method, » as Mr. Etienne calls it, which the English merchants tried to keep going in the French Congo and which, as a last ressource, they are trying to force into the Free State.

They are not in the least interested in the abuses the natives may have suffered from, abuses which have been and always will be remorselessly suppressed.

That is only one way of achieving their object, i. e. to change the actual system, « for, » as says the Secretary of the Congo Reform Association, « if this system be changed, the Congo State will fall to pieces. »

* * *

Re the Commission of Inquiry.—On the return of the Commission of Inquiry, the *Métropole* published an interview which, as it said, one of its reporters had had with a member of the Commission. This interview contained several allegations, which our adversaries have tried to make use of against the Congo State.

No sooner was the interview published than all the members of the Commission emphatically declared that it did not emanate from them. The following is the letter written to the *Métropole* by Mr. Edmond Janssens, President of the Commission of Inquiry :—

» Sir,

» The *Métropole* of March 13th published an interview which its Southampton correspondant apparently had with one of the members of the Commission of inquiry. This member, it would seem, gave his opinion as to the results of the inquiry.

» I am authorized to affirm to you that neither my fellow-members, Baron Nisco and Mr. de Schumacher, minister of State, or myself held a moment's conversation with the correspondant in question.

» Let me make use of this opportunity to ask you to kindly inform your readers that any interview, published by any paper, in which a member of the Commission is reported to have stated an opinion, or given an appreciation as to the results of the Inquiry, before the report is drawn up, must be considered as nothing but a work of fiction.

» Let me ask you, Sir, to kindly publish this

amendment in the next issue of your estimable paper and believe me,

» Yours faithfully.

» (*s.*) Edmond Janssens,

» President of the Commission of Inquiry. »

Messrs. Baron Nisco, de Schumacher, Denyn and Grégoire one after the other wrote letters to the Antwerp paper denying the interview. Thus ends a tale...

* * *

The appeal (for funds) of the Congo Reform Association.—We do not attach much importance to this new manifestation of an « Association » of which it may be said that it fully exemplifies the saying : « much ado about nothing. »

The wording of the appeal, however, points out once again the usual way of going to work of the opponents of Belgians in the Congo.

The charges are exposed as being proved by crushing evidence, and among the witnesses are specially mentioned : « many French and British administrators in neighbouring territories (?) » *Of course not a single allusion is made to the numberless testimonies we have published*, unless it be to say that « *some journalists have been lately sent to the Congo at the expense of interested parties.* » (*Special Congo Issue of the West African Mail*, March 1905, p. 270.) Amongst these « journalists paid by the interested parties » must no doubt be numbered, for example Mgr. Augouard, Mgr. Van Ronslé, Messrs. Clarke and George, the Rev. Tegart, major Powell-Cotton, major James Harrison, &c.?

The memorandum of the Congo Reform Association demands at the same time that an International Inquiry Commission should be named, that British Consuls in the Congo should have power of jurisdiction, that the Hague Court should interfere to decide the question of « the monopoly of commerce » and that the Berlin Conference should assemble once again. « *Excusez du peu !* » as the slang Parisian expression has it.

The Congo Reform Association feels that it is not attacked without reason and ends up by loudly denying that its aims are in any way political or commercial.

So much for the information of our readers.

* * *

A further success of the « Liverpool School. » —The chief and favourite argument of this « school » is known to be that the taxation of the natives and, above all, the system of concessions are bound to have the effect of oppressing the natives.

Now, the Minister of the Colonies, in France, has recently issued to Mr. de Brazza, who has been charged with a mission of inquiry in the French Congo, *instructions* which have attracted a good deal of attention. This is what Mr. de Brazza says about the system of concessions :—

« There can now be no question of opening a theoretical and idle discussion as to what advantage and danger the system of concessions offers in the French Congo. A fact rules the situation, namely that some five or six years since, the Government covenanted for a term of thirty years with the companies, some of which appear at the present time to be entering into an era of prosperity. All that it is necessary to do is to secure for the general good the due performance of the contracts entered into and, if need requires, to resort to such measures as the agreements enable the Government to exercise, amongst which the forfeiture. Now, the payment of royalties is quite legitimate, as it is the consideration for the advantages conceded to the companies. Moreover, it has become a material element of the local receipts in which it has, since 1900, appeared for an amount that has never been less than £10,000 every year and in 1905, will exceed £16,000, the rate rising after the fifth year. » (*Dépêche coloniale*, March 31st 1905.)

With regard to taxation of the natives, the Minister of the Colonies candidly declares that he sees no objection to it in principle and is satisfied with directing Mr. de Brazza to point out in his report such reforms or alterations as

could properly the introduced in the collection of the tax:

« I do not, however, think for my part that we should give up the system of a tax the collection of which, without requiring much exertion, yields considerable sums of money in other possessions of the West Coast. But I wonder and it will be your duty to ascertain whether in the French Congo, the social condition warrants its being maintained as it now stands or being generalized by degrees; whether on the contrary it is necessary to restrict or abolish it altogether or temporarily for certain territories, whether it is levied brutally or levied with moderation and skill, whether the rate is too high or should on the contrary be raised, whether, finally, the proceeds derived therefrom when collected in kind are exchanged for money in a manner found to be sufficiently profitable for the local Exchequer. »

The *Congo Reform Association* has decidedly met with fresh success in France, and we heartily congratulate it!

* * *

Private persons forbidden to collect rubber in a German Colony.—The *Amtlicher Anzeiger für Deutsch-Ostafrika* (Official paper of German East Africa) of February 11th last publishes a « Notice » which runs as follows :—

« Article 8 of the Forest Protection Ordinance dated September 9th 1904, provides that no person shall, from May 1st next and until further orders, incise, cut, fell or damage rubber plants, nor collect rubber on any land the property of the Public Treasury or which the Treasury is entitled to appropriate in the District of Langenburg.

» By application of Art. 10 of the Ordinance aforesaid, contraveners shall be liable to a fine up to 1,000 rupees or to imprisonment up to three months, or to both these penalties.

» The implements and utensils used for collecting the rubber as well as the produce unlawfully collected shall be forfeited.

» Daressalam, February 2nd, 1905.

» For the Imperial Governor :—

» (*s.*) Stuhlmann. »

A Notice practically worded in the same terms, and dated February 7th, applies to a portion of the Mahenge district.

From the above documents it would appear that the principles of colonial policy in favour with the Liverpool school are not making much progress on the other side of the Rhine. (*Dépêche coloniale*, March 23rd, 1905.)

* * *

And how about respecting the property rights of the natives?—In a letter signed Robert Chamberlain written from Johannesburg on February 8th to the Editor of the *Morning Post*, and published in this paper's issue of March 6th, we find the following curious passage :—

« Since the resignation of Sir Charles Eliot » (who, our readers will remember, was up to a short time ago, Governor of British East Africa) « **it has been decided to remove the Masaï altogether from the Rift Valley, and this process of removal is stated to be already in operation.** »

Is it in this way that in British Colonies the property rights of the natives are respected?

* * *

Scientific activity of the Congo State.—Men of learning are constantly paying homage to the activity displayed by the Congo Free State with the view of completing the scientific exploration of its vast territory and promoting the methodical study of the rich stock of observations and discoveries supplied by the agents of the State.

Dr. Lampert, the eminent Director of the Royal Museum of Natural History at Stuttgart, in his turn commends, in the following terms, the efforts made in that direction :—

« The publications of the Congo State are valuable works testifying to the pains taken to reach this noble object : the scientific exploration of that country so rich in important discoveries and the utilisation of the latter for the benefit of the scientific world.

» They further show the great success of those exertions and are worthy of a place in

the library of the Royal Museum which I have the honour to control. »

The German scientist refers to the *Annales du Musée du Congo* of Tervueren. It is quite certain that nowhere else in central Africa have studies been so thoroughly and remarkably carried out as those which, since 1897, have appeared in that important publication on the ethnography, anthropology, meteorology, botany and zoology of the Congo basin.

* * *

Is it a proof of ill-treatment ?—The English papers recently published an account of Lieut. Boyd Alexander's expedition in Lake Chad region.

In the report (see the *Field* of London, March 11th, 1905), we notice the following passage :—

On several of these islands there were small native settlements, with grass huts, inhabited by the Buduma tribe, who own considerable herbs of cattle, which they drive from one island to an other for pasture. These people are extremely timid, and invariably fled at the approach of the boat.

What is to be concluded from the above? Either that the fact of the natives fleeing, on the approach of the white men is no proof whatever of their having been ill-treated. Or that the natives of the region visited by Lieut. Boyd Alexander, situated in Nigeria, British territory, have been made shy by the methods of the English colonisers.

In any case, if it had occurred in the Congo State, some Protestant Missionary or rubber merchant would, to a certainty, have made this an excuse to make a great fuss about the matter and declare that it was evidence of the crimes the Belgians are charged with.

(*Indépendance belge*, March 25th.)

* * *

Mr. Roth's Report.—Our readers will find a short sketch of this sensational pamphlet under the heading *Beauties of British Colonisation.* Englishmen, who criticize us, Belgians, so severely, ought certainly to be inspired from it with a sense of shame, forbidding them to cast blame on other nations.

The British press, the *Times* excepted, naturally paid but little attention to the atrocities committed in Western Australia; but, had only the tenth part of what took place been testified to by any missionary whatever against the Congo State what a hullabaloo would we not have heard!

The attention of thoughtful people must nevertheless be struck by this discreet silence and they must wonder to what extent the *Congo Reformers* are sincere. The correspondent of an important Berlin daily paper, the *Preussische Korrespondenz*, issue of April 5th, expresses surprise at the contrast between the fierce attacks raised by the congolese « atrocities » and the few remarks to be found in the leading English papers about the horrible abuses which have taken place in Western Australia.

Even in England, this studied silence was noted by the *Catholic Herald*, of April 7th. « It will be observed with interest that the horrors of slavery and outrage on natives in West Australia which have just been exposed, have got hardly any attention in the Press here, but that same consistent and noble-minded Press devotes columns to the statements of British missionaries, many of whom have been prevented from illegal trading in rubber and other products in the Congo territory, &c. »

In the House of Commons, a few remarks were made by the gallant Mr. Campbell on the subject of Mr. Roth's Report. Sir H. Seton-Karr seconded this speech by declaring that « aboriginal inhabitants should have a reasonable chance of living in the country of their birth. » Mr. Herbert Samuel alluded to « the discreditable state of things disclosed by the report » and finally the Secretary of State for the colonies agreed with these views and stated that « no one could possibly view such a state of things, or read of it, without a feeling of the greatest abhorrence. » He then added that England could not interfere with

its own colony, on account of its autonomy! (See *The Times*, March 31st).

There is nothing, in this short exchange of ideas, to remind one in the very least, of the heated anti-Congolese sittings of 1903 and 1904.

You will ask yourselves, readers, the reason of this difference.

You will also wonder why the intervention of England or of an international Commission is necessary with regard to an Independant State, while the British Government considers that it cannot interfere even with an English colony.

The answer is so evident that we do not see the necessity of giving it.

* * *

What the Congo Reform Association *really is.* —That extremely noisy crowd of missionaries and india-rubber merchants known as the Congo Reform Association recently numbered its members and has just published the result of this census. How many are there of them? Exactly **223**.

That does not prevent them however from setting themselves up as the organ of the general British public opinion and from declaring that Belgium is no longer taking any interest in the Congo, although our Federation numbers over **150,000** members.

* * *

The Editor of the « West African Mail, » apostle of polygamy.—The following more than transparent passage appears in this extraordinary colonial paper (issue of March 31st) :—

« It seems to us equally foolish, from the point of view of those who spend their lives — and many of them most unselfishly — in propagating Christianity in West Africa, as for those who support them, to expect a pagan to cast off what the Church considers to be his superfluous wives (although the good ladies themselves probably resent the imputation) as the price of becoming a theoretical Christian; as to expect that the native law of succession should be turned topsy turvy because conversion to Christianity is subject to the acceptance of the English marriage system. »

If the wishes of the *West African Mail* were acceded to, we should see Christians indulging in polygamy. The Editor does not tell us, however, to what extent that is compatible with the texts of Scripture.

* * *

In Southern Nigeria.—The *Government Gazette* of Southern Nigeria has just published the first census of the colony's population. The number of inhabitants is 3,055,546, of whom :—

828,059 are men
1,111,106 are women
1,116,381 are children.

The *West African Mail* notices the small number of children compared to that of grown-up people but does not think of assigning a cause to this fact. This cause is however not difficult to find. It must be remembered that almost the whole budget of Southern Nigeria (80 % of the receipts) is paid for by the spirit trade and that the yearly average of alcohol imported reaches the figure of 1,541,850 gallons. How can the birth-rate do otherwise than go down under such circumstances?

* * *

Roads in Northern Nigeria.— It is announced from Zungeru, the capital of Northern Nigeria, that a new road, which was being constructed between Zungeru and Zaria, has just been finished. This road is about 170 miles long. It constitutes the first portion of the immense 400 mile roadway, which the High Commissioner Lugard ordered to be constructed between the capital and Katsena, on the borders of the Sahara desert.

This road is laid out by nothing but forced labour impressed on the natives.

* * *

Charming « system »! — The newspapers reported a few days ago that the Chinese coolies employed in the Transvaal mines had struck and had been taken back, by force, to the « compounds, » by the police, with the assistance of native Kaffirs.

REVIEW OF THE PRESS.

Let us rapidly run through, classing them by countries, a few interesting articles of the German, English and Italian presses.

Germany.

The *Gazette de Cologne* of March 26th published, under the title of *Peaceful Penetration* an article in which the results obtained in this way by the different powers are examined on a comparative scale.

The important Rhenish paper first of all deals at some length with the Congo State and devotes the following passage of praise to it.

It is now twenty years since Africa was divided between the great European Powers; it is time to throw a glance backwards on the results obtained by each of them. Even at the time of the Berlin Conference, Stanley had pointed out the necessity of opening up the continent by railways; events proved him to be right. So far, the Congo State has taken its task of developping its railway communications in hand the most seriously. Ever active, it is making every effort to increase its system of navigable channels, railways, telegraphic communications and roads; a large expedition organised by the State and accompanied by financial and industrial representatives is about to start for the Congo; it will stay there at least a year and a half to study questions relating to means of communication as a whole. There is an example which might well be copied by other colonising powers, &c.

As the *Journal de Bruxelles* (March, 31th) says in reproducing this article, it is agreable to see some of its merit recognised as due to the work we are accomplishing in Africa and to find our success attributed, not to a regime of terror forced on the natives, but to its true cause, viz: Means of peaceful penetration. The passionate attacks that have been directed against us by certain groups, in England, are caused principally by the jealousy of our neighbours who either have not been able or have not chosen to use the one and only method of making a tropical colony progress, *i. e.* giving it the economical working indispensible to its advance.

The incorrect rumours that were purposely circulated at the time of the Inquiry Commission's return suggest this very proper observation on the part of the *Nimm mich mit* (No. 27) :—

Those who want to form an accurate opinion will do well not to entertain any rumour but to await the truth which the report of the Commission is about to reveal. For it is nonsense to be inclined to admit that these rumours—as was reported— were founded by the Inquiry Commission itself. Neither of the three Commissioners is allowed to furnish information on the subject of the results of the investigation except to the official authorities qualified for the purpose. That such an authority is not the Press is unnecessary to point out.

The same note appears in numerous German papers, amongst others the *National Zeitung* of March 17th, which remarks that the investigations of the Commission have covered a considerable portion of the State territory :—

As soon as they landed, the Members of the Commission were assailed by a host of reporters. But, it stands to reason, they refused to give the slightest explanation, seeing that they will shortly deliver their report to the King. Everything that has been written since then on the subject of the impressions of the Commission is utterly devoid of authenticity.

In an article dated March 16th, the *Kölnische Volkszeitung* stops short the stories given out by the return of the Inquiry Commission. After denying all the statements supposed to have been made by the members of the Commission, it concludes by this topical observation :—

This story comes directly from Mr. Morel's back

office, which is the real working branch of the Congo Reform Association. That says enough about its value.

We have printed here an extract of the wonderful study published in the *Revue économique internationale*, by Baron von Stengel. The *Deutsche Kolonial Zeitung* of March 30th also calls attention to this work and bestows great praise on it, even adding :—

The eminent specialist on international law not only has proved that the Congo Government has in no way given ground for legitimate recriminations from the Powers who signed the Berlin Act but has also shewn that the administration of the young colonial Power—its ground policy need only be called to mind —always remembering the object to be attained, is worthy of being considered with great attention and even of being imitated and by so doing, has rendered an inestimable service to the German colonial cause.

It is needless to insist on the importance of the adhesion of this paper, which is, as everybody knows, the organ of the *Deutsche Kolonialgesellschaft*.

The *Wiener Fremdenblatt* of March 2nd prints in reference to the publication entitled *The Congo Free State.—Documents upon the country and its inhabitants*, an extremely laudatory review containing numerous extracts to prove the wonderful progress realised in the centre of Africa, thanks to the energy of the Belgians.

The *Munstersche Zeitung* of March 12th, dealing with fresh reports of « atrocities » :—

This further report of cruelties clearly seems to be sheer invention. Like all similar statements spread about by the anti-congolese League, it is groundless and only affords a further proof that the English intrigues against the Congo State are going on as usual, that England is not ashamed to resort to the most unwarrantable methods in order to create trouble in central Africa. That the calumnies levelled at the Congo State's officials are unjustified is demonstrated by the very fact that the English Catholics have just presented an address, bearing thousands of signatures to Leopold II., in which they thank the Sovereign of the Congo for the protection secured to the missionaries under his rule in Africa.

The *Preussische Correspondenz* of March 11th draws attention to the importance of the attitude which some highly authoritative Germans have recently taken up in the Congolese question :—

It will be a matter of interest for the German impartial observer, says the paper, to see that of late practical German colonial men have expressed themselves in favour of the system prevailing in the Congo Free State.

In continuation of the above, the Berlin Journal quotes various extracts from the article of the *Deutsche Ostafrikanische Zeitung* and from Mr. Saint-Paul Illaire's pamphlet, two thoroughly studied papers which we directed attention to in our last issue.

The *Hannoverscher Courier* of March 8th :—

This English controversy recalls the parable of the mote and the beam.

The February number of *Die Weltwirtschaft* :—

The question of public health is one to which the Congo Free State Government are giving their best attention. The numerous marshes of the country that caused fever by which so many people were carried off have long since been the dread of the population. The Belgians have taken the trouble to drain them. Whenever they can, they are not satisfied with making the country fit to live in, but otherwise improve it also. For instance, in the very spot at Boma where a foul marsh formerly existed, a public park has now been laid out, which has replaced a source of disease by a garden of recreation.

The important German paper *Berliner Neueste Nachrichten*, publishes in its number of March 11th an article resolutely taking up the defence of the Congo State against England. It lays down the question in the following manner.

In addition to, and even more so than Germany, the Congo Free State is in the way of the British in Africa, which can be perfectly seen by taking up the map of the black continent. This State forms a huge

obstacle to the efforts of the British towards African hegemony. Our five African possessions are not so much in their way in that respect and this is precisely the reason why the maintenance of the Congo State is clearly a matter of great interest for the German Empire. If it were to disappear, we should, in regard to the enormous possessions of Great Britain, even be in a more inferior position than is already the case. But it is a notorious fact that certain British colonial politicians contemplate the division of the Congo State. We should have a share given us as would the other Powers. We may be quite convinced before hand that it would anyhow not be the lion's share. If Germany were to favour this inclination to divide the Congo, however handsome the reward for that support might be, no action connected with colonial policy could possibly be more foolish.

Great Britain and America.

A handsome English periodical, *The Gentleman's Journal*, publishes a series of articles, elaborately illustrated by photographs, in which is shown the progress achieved in the Congo in every direction. One of these articles sums up as follows :—

Think of Africa still in its state of barbarism : the slave-trade is carried on almost throughout the continent; the natives live on larceny and war between tribe and tribe; slavery, the man-eater, supplies all the hardest labour, the vilest of trades and shamefully earned profit; and civilization meets with the habits of centuries, secular laws and barbarous customs. Yet despite these reminiscences, see Africa nowadays, and notice what a handful of plodding Europeans, under the guidance of an enlightened philanthropic man, have done for the Dark Continent in twenty years of patient toil. Well may it be said that the results achieved are marvellous, and that certain adverse comments are fully undeserved.

The *Post* of Hartford, after giving, under date of February 18th, an account of the lecture delivered by Professor Alfred Nerinckx, sums up as follows the concluding part of his address :—

English travelers report enthusiastically upon the fine condition of the schools and hospitals which have been established. They note that the Government is taking great pains to overcome the terrible sleeping sickness, which sweeps away whole villages of natives at a time. The State is rich in mineral deposits which are becoming available and over 1,000 miles of railroad is now in course of construction, to connect the upper Congo river with the Nile and Zambesi valley. A system of 800 miles of automobile roads will soon be established. The prosperity of the State explains the jealousy which is the motive of the attacks made upon it.

Italy.

An Italian, who has come home after a long stay in the Congo, writes to the *Tribuna* (March 4th) a letter upon the subject of the discussion as to the practicability of Italian emigration to the Congo. Owing to its length, this letter does not admit of being copied in full, but on the authority of numerous opinions of competent men, added to the writer's testimony of his own experience, it proves that the Congo climate is far from being so unhealthy as it is said to be. This is more particularly the case, he says, in the upper portion. There are of course some districts in the Congo which are unsuitable for Italian colonisation. But how many others are there perfectly salubrious and, in that respect much more favourable than Brazil to which so many Italians are attracted!

The same views are upheld by the *Italia Militare et Marina* in an article dated March 16th, completing six previous ones devoted by that paper to the Congolese question from an Italian point of view. It runs as follows :—

At the outset, Belgium herself was not confident in the favourable issue of the arduous humanitarian undertaking of which her King had become the initiator. She refused him all financial support. But Leopold II. spent out of his own private fortune millions and millions until such time as the Congo Free State had reached its present degree of economical prosperity which is envied by other colonizing States and is the source and motive of all the attacks, of all the unfair campaign of calumny carried on against the Congo State in the hope of destroying the magnificent work of civilization accomplished by King Leopold.

The *Eco d'Italia* of March 21st says in reference to the return of the Inquiry Commission :—

The Commission will publish their report, so that in spite of the malicious endeavours on the part of the English agents (styling themselves missionaries) to underrate the Belgian authorities and to supersede them by the British, the investigation will have done some good in the way of rendering the Belgian authorities more careful in exercising their supervision and putting down abuse. In the meanwhile, it should be noted that this is a matter of the least concern with the English in their own colonies. They pretend to remove the mote from their neighbour's eye, but fail to see the beam in their own!

The *Natura ed Arte* of March 15th :—

Facts, better than all the protests in the world, eloquently testify against the calumnies to which the Congo State has been subjected to chiefly from English quarters. Whilst these prejudiced defenders of the sentiments of humanity are disparaging the Free State, the latter is working towards the abolition of the custom prevalent in the country of transporting loads on men's backs which was one of the boldest defiances to ideas of human dignity.

BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS OF INTEREST ON THE CONGO QUESTION

English and American opinions on the Congo State. A pamphlet, 32 pages.

Statements of reputed travellers on the Congo. A pamphlet, 53 pages. Brussels, Monnom (1904).

A short History of the Anti-Congo Campaign, by CHAS. SAROLEA. An illustrated pamphlet, 28 pages. Edinburgh, printed by Oliver and Boyd.

The Congo Free State and African Civilization, by V. POURBAIX. An illustrated pamphlet, 20 pages. Brussels, Imprimerie des Travaux publics.

Dr. Guinness self-refuted. Inconsistency of the Congo Balolo missionaries. A pamphlet of 24 pages. Edinburgh, printed by Oliver and Boyd.

Native Africans and the drink question. An illustrated pamphlet of 15 pages. Brussels, Imprimerie des Travaux publics.

The Congo State is not a Slave State, by DEMETRIUS C. BOULGER. A pamphlet, 59 pages. London, Sampson Low, Marston and Co. (1903). Price : 6 pence.

New Africa, an essay on Government civilization in new countries and on the foundation, organization and administration of the Congo Free State, by E. DESCAMPS, London, Sampson Low, Marston and Co. (1903).

The Congo State and the Congo acts, by Baron VON STENGEL. Extract from *Revue économique internationale.* Vol. IV., No. 1, January 1905, Brussels.

The Independant State of the Congo and the General Act of Berlin, by ERNEST NYS. Extract from *Revue de droit international et de législation comparée.* A pamphlet, 23 pages. Brussels, Hayez (1903).

The Independent State of the Congo and international law, by E. NYS. A pamphlet, 70 pages. Brussels, J. Lebègue and Co. (1903).

Land legislation in the Conventional Congo Basin. Text of the German decree. The land policy in French West Africa. A pamphlet of 16 pages. Brussels, Hayez, printer to the Royal Academy.

The Burrows Action. A pamphlet, 204 pages. Price : 1 sh.

The Congo, by ROLAND DE MARÉS. 118 pages. Brussels (1904), Lebègue and Co., editor.

Report of the Vice-Governor General to the Secretary of State. (Extract from the *Bulletin officiel* of the Congo Free State, No. 7, July 1904.) Brussels, Lebègue and Co.

Government Gazette of the Congo Free State. No. 6, June 1903. A pamphlet, 28 pages.